

The Mendacity of Mr. Riggs

By C. YARNALL ABBOTT

(Copyright, by J. B. Lippincott Co.)

When Mr. Hector Montgomery Riggs awakened suddenly at the chilly and mournful hour of 3 a. m., it was with the distinct feeling that something was wrong. This feeling became a certainty as he opened his eyes in the dim light cast by the street-lamp outside. Before the open drawer of his handsome dressing-table stood a man engaged in doffing and almost noiselessly going through its contents.

Though Mr. Riggs had not consciously moved, his visitor seemed instantly aware of his awakening, for he turned and regarded him intently.

The burglar was a small man, slim and slightly built—not at all the typical midnight marauder—but the situation was sufficiently startling, nevertheless.

"What are you doing there?" demanded Mr. Riggs quite unnecessarily. His tone was not, perhaps, as peremptory as it might have been, but allowances must be made for the nerves of a quiet, middle-aged gentleman so suddenly awakened.

"What the h— do you think?" responded the burglar genially. He changed his position slightly and resumed his occupation, keeping, the while, an eye on his unwilling host.

"What do you mean, sir? This is an outrage! Leave this house at once! I shall call the police!" cried the latter. He had overcome the unfortunate tendency of his voice to tremble and felt that he was handling this difficult situation rather well.

"Look here!" said the burglar, "you've got to cut that out, see? If you don't talk, yer won't get hurt, but if yer bother me I'll knock yer d— bald head off, see?"

Mr. Riggs shuddered. He felt that it was incumbent upon him to do something—but what? He was practically alone in the house, for Mrs. Riggs and the children were still, so to speak, being swept by ocean breezes, and the two servants were, presumably, enjoying well-earned repose two floors above him. Decidedly, the wisest course was to lie still. He lay still.

The desperate scoundrel seemed to find nothing which took his fancy in the drawers of the dressing-table. Enlarging his field of operations, he extracted a roll of bills from the pocket of Mr. Riggs' waistcoat as it hung decorously over the back of a chair.

"Say, bo," he said, "that's not all you've got. Where's the rest?"

"I—I refuse to answer," said Mr. Riggs with decision.

"Oh, 'scuse me," said the burglar. He chuckled, but his manner changed instantly as he advanced a step towards the bed.

"You don't want to get gay?" he said, with a threatening gesture.

Mr. Riggs subsided promptly.

"My wallet is under my pillow," he murmured.

"Now yer shoutin'," said the burglar. "No, you keep yer hands down; I'll git it."

He inserted a grimy hand and dragged it out.

"And here's yer turnip too."

From the same hiding-place he extracted the poor gentleman's handsome repeater.

"Now, then," he said, sharply, "where's your wife's stuff—jools and things?"

A fortunate diversion relieved Mr. Riggs from the embarrassing necessity of replying. Through the open door of an adjoining room came the sound of heavy footsteps in the yard below and the rapping of a club on the pavement.

In an instant the burglar had dropped watch and money into a capacious pocket, had unlocked the door into the hall, and disappeared through it. Down the stairs he stumbled, and in a moment more the front door closed quietly behind him.

Mr. Riggs arose hastily. A ladder had been placed from the yard to the rear window, and up it, to the accompaniment of stertorous puffing, clambered a large policeman.

Mr. Riggs received him with all the dignity compatible with a suit of baby-blue pajamas.

"It was a burglar," he said. "He has escaped by the front door."

The officer nodded judicially.

"They ain't no use chasin' him now," said he; "we'll ketch him in the morning all right, all right! I seen the ladder when I com' by, so I sez to myself: 'I'll drop up, I sez. What did he get?'"

They investigated. Except for the money and watch, the loss was trifling.

Mr. Riggs told his story:

"I was awakened by the villain," said he, "just as he was about making his escape. I seized him, of course—"

"Sure!" interjected the policeman, "but he held me by the throat with one hand while he ran downstairs with the other—I mean, he threw me down and ran."

"He must 'a' been a big devil," said the officer with deep interest. "Say, that'll be Beef Nolan. I seen him hangin' round here the other night. What was he, a big fellow, six feet two, 200 pounds, scar on cheek, front teeth out, sandy hair?"

"I—I think so," said Mr. Riggs, a little overwhelmed by his own mendacity.

"That's all right then. You go back to bed. I'll take away the ladder. He won't bother you again." He descended as he had come and disappeared.

The Bankers Reserve Life Company.

B. H. ROBISON, President

HOME OFFICE OMAHA, NEBRASKA

GUARANTEED ANNUITY POLICY

ITS FEATURES AND ADVANTAGES

Cash surrender Value.

Paid Insurance during life.

Extended Insurance for face of policy.

Policy is payable in gold coin.

Policy is fully paid up after ten, fifteen or twenty years.

Policy may be payable in liberal installments.

ALSO ANNUAL INCREASING DIVIDENDS PAID ON POLICY

All policies secured by approved securities deposited with the state of Nebraska.

H. C. KELLEY,

TERRITORIAL MANAGER

Main Office
Pioneer Bldg.

East Las Vegas,
New Mexico

peared in the darkness with his burden.

Before Mr. Riggs had finished his toilet a few hours later the doorbell rung several times. A flustered maid bore him the intelligence that the parlor was full of gentlemen—reporters, they said.

To an interested circle with yellow copy-paper and flying pencils he told his story once more—simply and with dignity, as becomes a hero. Perhaps a reasonable amount of exaggeration might be forgiven in one who had lived through so strenuous an experience, but we shudder at the height to which he must have reached to warrant the following, which appeared in that afternoon's News:

BURGLARY!
The House of a Prominent Banker Entered.

Desperate Battle in the Darkness.
Mr. H. M. Riggs Fights for His Life with Heavily-Armed Scoundrel.

At a late hour last night burglars entered the palatial Walnut street residence of Mr. Hector Montgomery Riggs, cashier of the Twelfth National bank and well known in social and financial circles. The scoundrels effected an entrance by means of a ladder from the yard, and would, doubtless, have ransacked the house but for the signal bravery of Mr. Riggs, who, awakened by a slight noise, grappled, bare-handed, with the heavily-armed villains. His desperate resistance so intimidated the miscreants that they did not use their weapons, but were finally glad to make good their escape, taking with them only Mr. Riggs' watch—a handsome timepiece presented to him by his associates at the bank—and a large sum of money, of which they were able to lay hold of during the melee.

The police of the Twenty-seventh district are working hard on the case and hope to have the gang of marauders behind the bars in the near future. The leader of the gang is described by Mr. Riggs as a perfect giant in physique and armed to the teeth, a fact which indicates even more strongly the courage and nerve displayed by the banker.

Fortunately, Mrs. Riggs and the three charming children were still at their country home at Beachhurst and were spared the annoyance and distress of the painful incident.

Mr. Riggs, who is a member of the United and Aldine clubs and a host of other organizations, spent to-day at home, resting and receiving the congratulations of his many friends on his heroism.

As a matter of fact, it was anything rather than a restful day for the hitherto quiet banker. Friends, reporters, detectives, beset him all day. To all he told his story, and to each with a growing plenitude of detail. The somewhat strained tale into which he had stumbled the night before through a vague feeling that the truth would render him ridiculous seemed less and less extravagant with each repetition. In fact, by evening he had arrived at a state of mind in which he believed everything—or nearly everything—that he told.

Seeking new worlds to conquer, he strolled down to his club at twilight. He was received with quite unusual empressement. Men whom he hardly knew came up to him with hearty congratulations. He was pointed out to strangers.

And right nobly did he sustain this new-found fame. Nothing could have been finer, more simple, more restrained than his manner when, at the extempore dinner given in his honor and in answer to tumultuous solicitations, he told his story once more. Through frequent rehearsals he had unconsciously learned to give to the narrative the one touch necessary to its perfecting—that of the embarrassment of a brave man at unsought honors, belittling his feats, deprecating the homage of the world.

Another ovation awaited Mr. Riggs at the bank the following morning. The president, Mr. Cogswell, arrived a half hour earlier than usual and still further departed from his usual custom by smoking a cigar with the hero in the latter's cosy office. They discussed, with Mr. Rogers, the vice-president, who had also dropped in, the general subject of burglary, embellished with instances from Mr. Riggs' experience.

The tinkle of his 'phone bell interrupted Mr. Riggs as he sought for fitting words with which to reply.

"Hello," said a strange voice, "hello, is this Mr. Riggs? Well, this is Chief of Detectives Kelly at city hall. We've

got a man down here that we'd like you to take a look at. He don't answer your description exactly, but we've got the evidence to connect him with another burglary in your neighborhood and we'd like you to see him. Can you drop in this afternoon? Four o'clock? All right, Good-by."

Thus it came to pass that Mr. Riggs, accompanied by his two fellow officers, who had refused to forsake him in this ordeal, crossed for the first time the threshold of a police station.

From a cell half-way down stairs Jimmy, the burly turnkey, produced a man. He was certainly not the desperate giant of Mr. Riggs' description. Small, slight and consumptive-looking, he hardly reached to the banker's shoulder.

"Say, boss," he began, "I ain't done nothing. You never seen me before, did yer, boss?"

"Shut up!" remarked Jimmy, perfunctorily.

From above his expanse of fair white waistcoat Mr. Riggs looked down upon his visitor of two nights before. He realized that the tables were turned, and he thirsted for revenge. There was no doubt in his mind as to the man's identity. He was certainly the wretch who robbed him. At the same time, the situation was distinctly delicate. If he denounced this puny scoundrel, what would become of his newly-found fame. Prompt action was required.

Mr. Riggs cleared his throat judicially.

"This is not the villain who robbed me," he said, "my man was a big man."

But as Mr. Riggs turned away he caught the barest flicker of a smile in the eyes of the burglar.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

Warranty Deeds

Richard A. Morley et ux to Mary M. Pugh, March 1, 1909, consideration \$40, conveys lots 9 and 10 blk 6 and 12 Newark.

David W. Condon et ux to Fred Westerman June 22, 1909, consideration \$1, conveys land in San Miguel county.

Edwards Martin Land Co., to Mary Retter June 15, 1909 consideration \$5120 conveys 320 acres in sec. 2 tp. 15 R. 18.

Board of Trustees to Sinton Quintana, September 3, 1907, consideration \$1, conveys 160 acres.

Sinton Quintana to E. Rosenwald & Son June 21 1909, consideration \$10, conveys land in Rincon.

Richard A. Morley et ux to Elizabeth M. Glaze, March 22, 1909, consideration \$55 conveys lots 6, 8, 9, blk. 7 and 13 Newark.

Richard A. Morley et ux to F. W. Swallow May 25, 1909, consideration \$40, conveys lots 18 and 6 blk. 2 and 3, Newark.

Fred W. Browne et ux to C. E. Jackman April 20, 1908 consideration \$1, conveys 160 acres in sec. 11 twp. 13 R. 18.

Gregorio Aragon et al's to Juan B. Salpointe, consideration \$1, conveys 50 yds. of land at Sapello, N. M., Pct. 14.

Sheep Contract

Stern and Nahm to Lucas Garcia June 22, 1909, consideration 200 sheep

Right of Way

Montezuma Ranch to Colorado Telephone Co., June 12 1909, consideration \$1, for 28 poles located on Montezuma ranch.

Stomach Troubles.

Many remarkable cures of stomach troubles have been effected by Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. One man who had spent over two thousand dollars for medicine and treatment was cured by a few boxes of these tablets. Price 25 cents. Samples free at all drug stores.

WANTS

WANTED—A good man as assistant manager for an old line life company. One of good character who can furnish surety bond. Prefer one with some experience. Must be a hustler and not afraid to work. No has-beens. To such a man a good salary and commission will be paid. Address Optic.

WANTED—Woman for laundry work. Apply 235 Tilden.

MEN LEARN BARBER TRADE—Short time required; graduates earn \$12 to \$30 week. Moler Barber college, Los Angeles.

FOR RENT.

FOR RENT—5-room furnished house at \$15 per month. Inquire 618 Grand avenue, or telephone Main 428.

FOR RENT—Front room with use of bath. 906 Third street.

FOR RENT—One 7 room house, and one 5 room house. \$20 Gallinas.

FOR RENT—Furnished rooms; electric lights and bath. 710 Grand ave.

FOR RENT—Furnished rooms for light housekeeping. M. Howell, 721 Fourth.

FOR RENT—5-room cottage, range and sewer connection, 414 Seventh.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—Seven Langshang hens. Inquire 905 Tilden avenue.

FOR SALE—A buggy in good repair. Apply 1012 San Francisco ave.

FOR SALE—A fresh milch cow. Apply 403 Railroad ave.

FOR SALE—Good, fresh cow. 925 Columbia ave.

FOR SALE—Carriage, good as new. 1016 Fifth street.

FOR SALE—Legal blanks of all description. Notary seals and records at the Optic office.

OLD newspapers for sale at The Optic office, 10 cents a bundle.

LOST.

LOST—Plaza, old town, 1 purse containing \$27.00, ticket and opal pin. Finder return to Central hotel and receive reward.

"Yes, it is true," remarked the young man from Chicago; "my father raises hogs." "Ah, then you have some brothers," insinuated the scion of the effete east.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy the Best on the Market.

"I have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and find it the best on the market," says E. W. Tardy, editor of The Sentinel, Gainsboro, Tenn. "Our baby had several colds the past winter and Chamberlain's Cough Remedy always gave it relief at once and cured it in a short time. I always recommend it when opportunity presents itself." For sale by all dealers.

"Silence is golden," remarked the man who is fond of trite quotations, "it ought to be," growled the practical politician; "it costs enough."

PILES! PILES! PILES!

Williams' Indian Pile Ointment will cure Blind, Bleeding and Itching Piles. It absorbs the tumors, allays itching at once, acts as a poultice, gives instant relief. Williams' Indian Pile Ointment is prepared for Piles and itching of the private parts. Sold by druggists, mail 50c and \$1.00, Williams' Mfg Co., Props., Cleveland, O. For sale by Center Block Drug Co.

There are times when a man feels as friendless as a baseball umpire.

Many weak, nervous women have been restored to health by Foley's Kidney Remedy, as it stimulates the kidneys so they will eliminate the waste matter from the blood. Impurities depress the nerves, causing nervous exhaustion and other ailments. Commence today and you will soon be well. Pleasant to take. O. G. Schaefer and Red Cross Drug Co.

Good resolutions are as easy to break as they are to make.

A Vital Point

The most delicate part of a baby is its bowels. Every ailment that it suffers with attacks the bowels, also endangering in most cases the life of the infant. McGee's Baby Elixir cures diarrhoea, dysentery, and all derangements of the stomach or bowels. Sold by Center Block Depot Drug Co.

USE

BOSS PATENT FLOUR

And You Will Always Have

THE BOSS BREAD

Always Good Has No Equal
Handled By All Dealers

Smith & Maloney

Official City Contractors

All kinds of cement, sidewalk, plastering, brick and stone work. Jobbing promptly attended to. Only best material used. All work guaranteed.

OFFICE AND YARD, 1020 NATIONAL AVE.

PHONE OLIVE 5481.



THE LAS VEGAS BARGAIN HOUSE

JOBBERS OF

General Merchandise

Men's, Boys' and Children's Clothing a Specialty.

Mail Orders Promptly Filled.



Summer Rates East

Daily June 1st to Sept 30th, Inc. 1909.

Fare For the Round Trip.

Pueblo, Colo.	\$11.90
Colorado Springs	\$13.70
Denver	\$16.60
Kansas City, Mo.	\$31.30
St. Louis	\$40.30
Chicago, Ill.	\$46.30

Final return limit October 31st 1909
For information regarding other points, stops overs, Ect, please enquire at ticket office.

R. W. HOYT,
Agent.

Among the many unfulfilled predictions are the times when the world was coming to an end.

Of Interest to Farmers and Mechanics

Farmers and mechanics frequently meet with slight accidents and injuries which cause them much annoyance and loss of time. A cut or bruise may be cured in about one-third the time usually required by applying Chamberlain's Liniment as soon as the injury is received. This liniment is also valuable for sprains, soreness of the muscles and rheumatic pains. There is no danger of blood poisoning from an injury when Chamberlain's Liniment is applied before the parts become inflamed and swollen. For sale by all dealers.

A barking dog is no worse an annoyance in a neighborhood than a talking machine.

The Big Head

Is of two kind—conceit and the big head that comes from a sick headache. Does your head ever feel like a gourd and your brain feel loose and sore? You can cure it in no time by acting on your liver with Ballard's Herbine. Isn't it worth trying for the absolute and certain relief you'll get? Center Block Depot Drug Co.

The truth that lies at the bottom of the well is apt to stay there.

Could Not Be Better.

No one has ever made a salve, ointment, lotion or balm to compare with Bucklen's Arnica Salve. Its the one perfect healer of cuts, corns, burns, bruises, sores, scalds, boils, ulcers, eczema, salt rheum. For sore eyes, cold sores, chapped hands its supreme. Infallible for piles. Only 25 cents at all druggists.

Early to bed and early to rise may make a man healthy, wealthy and wise, but he misses a good deal.

A Thrilling Rescue.

How Bert R. Lean, of Cheney, Wash., was saved from a frightful death is a story to thrill the world. "A hard cold," he writes, "brought on a desperate lung trouble that baffled an expert doctor here. Then I paid \$10 to \$15 a visit to a lung specialist in Spokane, who did not help me. Then I went to California but without benefit. At last I used Dr. King's New Discovery which completely cured me and now I am as well as ever." For lung trouble, bronchitis, coughs and colds, asthma, croup and whooping cough it's supreme. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by all druggists.

Love is blind, in spite of all the occultists.

If you want to feel well, look well and be well, take Foley's Kidney Remedy. It tones up the kidneys and bladder, purifies the blood and restores health and strength. Pleasant to take and contains no harmful drugs. Why not commence today? O. G. Schaefer and Red Cross Drug Co.

Telephone your news items to The Optic, Phone Main 2.

